

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 097581 TOSEC 040079
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S:TMARTIN

APPROVED BY: S/S:TMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 097581 TOSEC 040079

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 5020, ACTION SECSTATE, CAIRO
16 APRIL:

QUOTE S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5020

NODIS

DEPT PASS USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPO, OVIP, IS, EG

SUBJECT: PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF ATHERTON TRIP

REF: STATE 097553

1. RELAYED TEXT OF PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT TO EVRON APRIL 16.
HE PROMISED TO PASS IT ON IMMEDIATELY TO DAYAN, AND PROMISED TO
LET ME KNOW PROMPTLY IF
GOI HAS ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS.

2. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, EVRON SAID HE THOUGHT
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD BE UNHAPPY THAT WE WERE PLOUGHING
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RELENTLESSLY AHEAD DESPITE BEGIN SUGGESTION THAT
VANCE/DAYAN MEETING PRECEDE ATHERTON'S RETURN TO THE AREA.
AT LEAST, HE SAID, WE MIGHT HAVE WAITED A COUPLE OF DAYS LONGER
UNTIL IT BECAME CLEAR WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE OR NOT
FOR DAYAN TO VISIT WASHINGTON DURING THE LAST WEEK IN APRIL.

3. I REITERATED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD CONCLUDED IT IS IMPORTANT

FOR ATHERTON TO RENEW OUR DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE EGYPTIANS WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY, AND THAT THIS COULD MAKE THE VANCE/DAYAN MEETING EVER MORE PRODUCTIVE. ALSO EXPLAINED THAT, SHOULD VANCE/DAYAN MEETING OCCUR DURING LAST WEEK IN MONTH, ATHERTON ITINERARY COULD BE CHANGED TO PERMIT HIM TO RETURN DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON FROM CAIRO TO TAKE PART IN TALKS.

4. EVRON GRUMBLED POLITELY, MAKING COMMENT THAT THIS WOULD ALL BE SEEN HERE AS MORE EVIDENCE OF THE DETERIORATING ATMOSPHERE IN US-ISRAELI RELATIONS; ABOUT WHICH HE WOULD SAY MORE WHEN NEXT WE MET.

5. THERE WAS NO HINT THAT ATHERTON SHOULD NOT COME TO JERUSALEM. BEGIN SPECIFICALLY SAID TO ME FRIDAY THAT "HE WOULD OF COURSE BE WELCOME." EVRON CONFIRMED THAT INDEED THIS IS THE CASE.

6. EVRON CALLED ME WITHIN AN HOUR TO SAY THAT THE GOI HAS ONE REQUEST. THEY WOULD LIKE THE SECOND SENTENCE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT DELETED; I.E., THE SENTENCE BEGINNING: "HIS VISIT IS PART OF THE....PEACEMAKING PROCESS FORWARD." I SAID I WOULD PASS ON THIS REQUEST.

7. INCIDENTALLY, NEWS TODAY IS FULL OF STORIES ABOUT "FURTHER REFINEMENT" OF GOI POSITION ON SC 242, SUPPOSEDLY WORKED OUT VOER WEEKEND BY BEGIN AND DAYAN. I DON'T YET HAVE EITHER CONFIRMATION OR DETAILS. LEWIS UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE, CAT-B, VISITS, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE097581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S:TMARTIN
Enclosure: REPEAT OF TEL AVIV 5020
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N780004-0475
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780451/aaaabroh.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 270828ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 97553
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2953246
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF ATHERTON TRIP
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, IS, EG, US, XF, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/270828ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014